

DISTRICT COURT COMMISSIONERS Emory B. Swink, <i>Supervising Commissioner</i> 974-2029	ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK Gloria B. Farver876-1033
DISTRICT 8 (Baltimore County: 12 Judges) John H. Garmer, <i>District Administrative Judge</i> 321-3355	DISTRICT COURT COMMISSIONERS Heather B. Bader, <i>Supervising Commissioner</i>461-0231
ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK Joseph T. O'Melia 321-3361	DISTRICT 11 (Frederick & Washington Counties: 4 Judges) Herbert L. Rollins, <i>District Administrative Judge</i>694-2005
DISTRICT COURT COMMISSIONERS Salvatore N. Butta, <i>Supervising Commissioner</i> 321-3370	ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK Dixie L. Scholtes694-2006
DISTRICT 9 (Harford County: 4 Judges) John S. Landbeck, Jr., <i>District Administrative Judge</i> 836-4510	DISTRICT COURT COMMISSIONERS Gerry L. Ponton, <i>Supervising Commissioner</i>694-2009
ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK Joan M. Ludlow 836-4525	DISTRICT 12 (Allegany & Garrett Counties: 3 Judges) Paul J. Stakem, <i>District Administrative Judge</i>777-2105
DISTRICT COURT COMMISSIONERS Sara E. Walker, <i>Supervising Commissioner</i> 879-4511	ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK Kathleen M. Stafford777-2105
DISTRICT 10 (Carroll & Howard Counties: 6 Judges) James N. Vaughan, <i>District Administrative Judge</i> 876-1033	DISTRICT COURT COMMISSIONERS Alan A. Dougherty, <i>Supervising Commissioner</i>777-2112

The District Court of Maryland was created by constitutional amendment ratified in 1970 (Chapter 789, Acts of 1969; Const., Art. IV, secs. 41A through 41-I). The Court began operating in July 1971. It replaced a miscellaneous system of trial magistrates, and people's and municipal courts. It is a court of record and has statewide jurisdiction.

The District Court has jurisdiction in both criminal (including motor vehicle) and civil areas. It has little equity jurisdiction and has jurisdiction over juvenile cases only in Montgomery County. The exclusive jurisdiction of the District Court generally includes all landlord/tenant cases; replevin actions; motor vehicle violations; criminal cases if the penalty is less than three years imprisonment or does not exceed a fine of \$2,500, or both; and civil cases involving amounts not exceeding \$2,500. It has concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit courts in civil cases over \$2,500 (but not exceeding \$10,000) and concurrent jurisdiction in misdemeanors and certain enumerated felonies. Since there are no juries provided in the District Court, a person entitled to and electing a jury trial must proceed to the circuit court (Code 1957, Art. 27, secs. 586, 594D, 616 1/2, 643A; Code Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, secs. 1-601 through 1-608, 2-601 through 2-607, 4-101 through 4-405, 6-403, 7-301, 7-302, 9-201, 11-402, 11-701 through 11-703, 12-401 through 12-404; Code Family Law Article, secs. 4-501 through 4-510).

The District Court is divided into twelve geographical districts, each containing one or more political subdivisions, with at least one judge in each subdivision. Presently, there are 97 judges on the Court, including the Chief Judge.

The District Court of Maryland is administered centrally and is funded fully by the State. The Chief Judge is the administrative head of the Court and appoints administrative judges for each of the twelve districts, subject to the approval of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. A chief clerk of the Court is appointed by the Chief Judge as are administrative clerks for each district, and district commissioners who issue arrest warrants and set bail or collateral.

District Court judges are appointed by the Governor to ten-year terms, subject to Senate confirmation. They do not stand for election. The Chief Judge is appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.